



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

Date: February 2, 2005

News Release

ICE AGENTS ARREST NEW YORK CRIMINAL ALIENS

Joint effort targets murderers, drug traffickers, other felons on probation

NEW YORK—Forty-one criminal aliens with felony convictions ranging from murder to drug trafficking, racketeering and money laundering were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents today as part of a joint public safety initiative between ICE and the U.S. Probation Office of the Eastern District of New York.

The arrests were announced by ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Martin D. Ficke and Deputy Chief Probation Officer George Doerrbecker.

The initiative targeted criminal aliens who have been convicted of federal felonies and were on probation.

Those arrested have prior felony convictions for murder, firearms trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, racketeering, fraud, false statements, receipt of stolen property, producing false identity documents, copyright infringement and other federal felonies.

"We are committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system by arresting and seeking the deportation of criminal aliens who have preyed upon the nation's communities and residents," said Ficke. "These are the criminals who turn the American dream into a nightmare, and they will not be given the chance to cause more harm."

Doerrbecker stated that "this is an excellent example of how agencies from different branches of government can work together to promote local and national security. These offenders preyed upon the citizens of our communities and today's actions will eliminate this threat."

Over the last 18 months, ICE has conducted other criminal alien initiatives with other state and local law enforcement agencies that have resulted in the arrests of 297 criminal alien sex offenders, and another 200 arrests of criminal aliens with prior felony convictions.

Twenty-two of the 41 criminal aliens arrested today are Lawful Permanent Residents, or so-called "green card" holders. The remaining 19 are aliens who are without legal status and will be entered into removal proceedings. An immigration judge will determine whether or not they can be deported.

Aliens who commit felonies and certain other crimes are aliens are deportable based solely upon their convictions.

Each alien arrested is a citizen of the one of the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.